



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Press Release

Canadian Charity Supports Pristina Centre for Rehabilitation, Mother and Child

The Pristina Centre for Rehabilitation, Mother and Child received a significant donation of €3,500 from a Canadian Charity called “Boomer’s Legacy” at 2 pm today, Friday 13 May 2011. The donation was made by Commander Stacey Wiper of the Canadian Navy, who is currently serving with KFOR in Pristina, on behalf of the Canadian Task Force.

The presentation ceremony began with a display of traditional music and dancing for the guest of honor, Brigadier General William S. Gorske, KFOR Chief of Staff. After the entertainment Brigadier General Gorske thanked the children for their display and introduced Commander Wiper to explain the background to "Boomer's Legacy" and make the presentation. Commander Wiper explained that "Boomer's Legacy" is a Canadian charity that was established in remembrance of Corporal Andrew James ("Boomer") Eykelenboom, a Canadian military medic who was killed by a suicide bomber in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan in August 2006 at age 23. Before his death, Corporal Eykelenboom had identified numerous opportunities for assisting the Afghan people through the distribution of basic medical supplies, educational material, books and clothing. Immediately after his death “Boomer’s Legacy” was established by his mother to support these worthwhile aims. Since its inception “Boomer’s Legacy” funds have been used to directly support the people of Afghanistan affected by poverty and war, however this is the first occasion that “Boomer Legacy” funds have been used outside of Afghanistan.



To a chorus of “Thank you” from the assembled children Ms Halime Maliqi accepted the donation on behalf of the centre. She thanked all soldiers who support this centre, particularly the Canadians and said “we pray for the soul of Boomer”. Speaking afterwards Ms Maliqi said that this is not the first donation received from KFOR; an association between the centre and KFOR began in 2002, and since 2006 KFOR has been the sole support for the centre. Ms Halime Maliqi, director of the centre, said that this donation would allow the centre to increase the number of children in its care and would provide significant improvements in educational facilities. Ms Maliqi plans to purchase new computers and provide English language training for the children with the funds received. The donation will also provide for the payment of basic utilities (electricity, food etc) for the immediate future.

Commander Wiper described how Canadian troops serving with KFOR, who constitute the Canadian Task Force, identified the Centre for Rehabilitation, Mother and Child as a worthy recipient of aid. The Canadian contingent contacted “Boomer’s Legacy” and it was decided that this would be an appropriate cause for the first donation outside of Afghanistan.